To Surpass the Devil

This story takes place many years before the events of Magical Girl Raising Project

There exists an organization among Magical Girls called the *Devil Investigation Team*. The purpose of this group was to figure out a way to defeat the Devil herself, Mao Pam.

Of course, that was their purpose on the surface. In truth, no one in this group knew the real purpose behind the formation of this organization.

The organization's mastermind was a Cyber Fairy by the name of Fav. He had a favorite Magical Girl,

Clamberry.

The goal was simple. Get Clamberry into the top of the ranks by any means necessary. The end-game being that Clamberry will become qualified to be a selection test administrator.

Selection tests are important events. They help bring new Magical Girls to the Land of Magic. Selecting a candidate, and ensuring that those candidates meet the requirements, require a lot of planning and scrutiny if they want high quality Magical Girls.

As a result, test administrators tend to be selected by a peer-reviewed group, and you can't normally apply to be an administrator.

There are several conditions to boost your chances of becoming an administrator.

Firstly, becoming a veteran Magical Girl. That definitely earns you points. Years of experience is required before you even choose the right people.

Then, there's also personal recommendations by a variety of Division heads. The recommendations are highly valued, but of course, each recommender has their own way of judging you.

Thus, it's extremely rare for a rookie Land of Magic worker to be selected as administrator, and given the fact that you'd need to be a good Magical Girl to even become a Land of Magic sanctioned worker, you can imagine it's quite hard.

Fav needed Clamberry to become a test administrator if the plans that they had in mind were going to continue.

Fav was a trusted member of the selection committee, able to give a high recommendation of praise for Clamberry. Leverage included her ability to defeat a demon in her own selection test.

But Fav's praise and recommendation wasn't enough. Clamberry still needed more before she could be admitted.

The easiest one to get so far… is a recommendation from Mao Pam, the leader of the Mao School.

The Mao School is a private organization comprised of powerful and strong Magical Girls. Undoubtedly the best of the best in terms of fighting ability.

Clamberry was part of this school, and of course, a wonderful student herself.

Their leader was Mao Pam, who was the most powerful Magical Girl of the current generation. She was also the head of the Foreign Affairs Division, who tends to do things diplomatically.

Needless to say, some were quite worried that the Mao's School is some kind of private army, though Pam insists that it's merely an after-school club kind of organization.

There were two ways to graduate from Mao's School.

The first is to get noticed enough by Mao Pam that she personally graduates you. This takes a lot of time and effort.

The second is to be able to land one hit on Mao Pam. The hit must be a damaging hit, and not something that was blocked by her.

Of the 10 graduates of Mao's School, most have passed through the former method, as none have actually managed to land a damaging hit on Pam yet.

The insurmountable wall that is Mao Pam can be hard to fight for some, coupled with the fact that she is heavily restraining herself, so that she won't kill her students.

Fav believes that with Clamberry, there will be a way for her to land a damaging blow. All it would take is one hit. Just one hit. Clamberry's physical strength and agility are good, and her powers make her one of the better candidates for this.

All he needs to do is give her an opening.

It was Fav who urged Clamberry to participate in Mao's School in the first place, and Clamberry certainly does enjoy her fights there, but she lacks what she wants, and Fav lacks what he wants.

Clamberry wants a death match, Fav wants to witness one. Mao's School provides powerful opponents, but none of them are willing to kill.

So Fav needed Clamberry to graduate, so that she'll become an administrator, and a better plan can be formed.

To do that, he needed to find an opening.

Mao Pam was near-impossible to defeat, but thankfully, she was nothing if not generous. It's too generous of her to allow a graduation method via a successful hit.

Fav will take advantage of that.

As a Cyber Fairy, Fav lives within the administrator's phone that Clamberry possesses, but he has access to the internet.

Files saved from the previous admins, and the previous ones, and previous ones. Connecting them to the Land of Magic, spreading contacts, Magical Girls who also wanted to beat Pam.

Weeks of research, and all of them supervised and watched over by Fav, who silently watched, and gave intelligence to Clamberry.

No matter how high you are in the Magical Girl ladder, you are still once human. Magical Girls always start out as humans, and Mao Pam is no different.

Somewhere, she has to have a life outside of being a Magical Girl, or at least some kind of entertainment value.

Hobbies, personal likes, dislikes, there has to be something that Mao Pam was into other than Land of Magic things.

Fav opened the first few video files in the group's shared page.

The title was *'Mao Pam takes a walk*'

The video started off normally, with what seems to be a park in the Land of Magic. Mao Pam was in full view.

The way she looked was… well, unorthodox. She had large black wings covering her, but otherwise there was minimal clothing.

But the Land of Magic doesn't discriminate, so it's not like Magical Girls have to be formal, as long as they're efficient.

Mao Pam was jogging in the park. She seemed to enjoy the morning walk. The camera was recorded in secret. Probably a Magical Girl already in the park, part of the group.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a Magical Girl came down to strike Pam, heading in with a kick launched towards her.

Pam caught her legs, and immediately slammed her down to a park bench, destroying it.

The Magical Girl must have wanted to score a hit on Pam, but it didn't seem to work. Pam then began ruthlessly beating up on the poor girl, who was trying her hardest to escape.

Pam held her down with one arm, and punched her in the face repeatedly with the other arm.

"AUGH, Gak! Agh… Stop! STOP! I give up! *Oof*! GAH… Please…"

"You chose the place, you chose the time, now you must submit to your fate," said Pam smiling warmly at her.

Mao Pam punched her and punched her, until the Magical Girl fell unconscious.

The rest of the park goers stared at Pam. A Mage who was sitting on the bench was now standing in disbelief.

He was a bearded old man, kind of looked like a classic wizard. Pam bowed down to him,

"Sorry for the trouble, I'll be sure to pay for the bench and any damages me and my student has caused," she said politely.

She slung the unconscious Magical Girl on her back and went on her way.

Mao Pam's senses were sharp. It's hard to sneak up on her. You'd need to attack her with something that couldn't be heard and couldn't be seen. Clamberry could control sound, but she needed to be smart if she didn't want to end up like this girl.

The next video is titled '*Even Mao Pam hates work*'.

It showed Mao Pam somewhere, typing at a laptop. It looks like some Foreign Affairs stuff on the screen.

Mao Pam's typing was slow, she seemed to look at each of the keyboards one by one before typing it per finger.

Even then, she sometimes stumbled.

“My, I didn’t mean that.”

“Oh dear, that’s not what I wanted to type at all”

“Gah, stupid keyboard.”

She would mutter out loud, as she erased her words and typed again and again.

Eventually, she gave up, and put her laptop away. Instead, she pulled out a notebook, and began smiling.

She opened the notebook, and twirled her pencil over and over.

She seemed to be thinking, thinking very hard.

She tapped her pencil to her chin, tapping her fingers to the table. She wrote something, but then she erased it.

She wrote something again, but then she scratched it off, then realized it was messing up her notebook, so she erased it.

The camera got a closer look at the notebook.

Fav paused the video, it seemed to be a list of names.

Oh, these were Mao’s School students.

Lake of Fire Flame Flamey

Dark Fang Limit

Blue Dragon Panasu

The Flower Vendor, Marika Fukuroi

Twin Stars Cutie Altair

Then the name she tried so hard to find.

After a few minutes of thinking, she had an ‘Aha!’ moment, and quickly wrote down the name that she had in mind.

The Forest Musician, Clamberry.

The next video is titled '*Mao Pam and Technology*'

This was during a meeting with several head Divisions. It seems Research and Development has created a new gadget, the Magical Phone.

The recording is high quality, and seems to have been some kind of meeting archive, uploaded into the site.

This must be during when Magical Phones were first invented.

Mao Pam looked down at her desk, the Magical Girl leading the meeting had instructed the Division heads on how the Magical Phone makes it easier to access each other, and also introduced administrator phones, which can be linked to Magical Girls in their selection tests.

Mao Pam touched her phone, she clicked some buttons, and then…

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

"Um…" she said,

Everyone stared at her. Mao Pam stared back.

"I uh… Ehe, well, excuse me while I…"

She tapped the screen. The beeping got louder.

"…How do you turn this off?" asked Mao Pam with blushed cheeks and an embarrassed smile.

The other Magical Girls tried their best not to look disappointed.

The next video is titled '*Mao Pam battle training*'.

It showed a large battle in a secluded area in the forest. There were two teams, attackers and defenders.

The defenders had to guard the house from being attacked, and the attackers needed to raid the house.

Mao Pam watched as she folded her arms, floating in the sky.

“Focus your attacks! Look for openings! Defense, your left flank is open! Pay more attention! Utilize your powers!” she screamed out.

Fireballs, arrows, beams, Magical Girls fighting each other, trying to make their way through to the other side.

The next video was ‘*Mao Pam is really bad with tech*’.

It was Mao Pam sending in her laptop and Magical Phone over to Research and Development, scratching her head a bit as she tried to explain how she broke it by not understanding how to fix something.

It was almost comical how little she understood, but she was too nervous to ask for help in fixing it, since she didn’t want to be seen as being unable to do something that the newer generations can do easily.

So she went over to repair it herself.

Finally, she received a new Magical Phone, and a laptop, after a few weeks of fast forwarding timeskip.

Grateful and very embarrassed, Mao Pam went back home.

The next video was called ‘*Mao Pam relaxes*’.

It’s a video taken in the library, at a private study booth. There, Mao Pam seems to have a couple of books and some notes down as well.

The books were all mythological or religious-based books.

The Bible, The Quran, The Torah, The Odyssey, The Epic of Gilgamesh, Egyptian Tablets, The Book of the Dead, and a variety of folklore, myth, and legend texts.

Mao Pam didn’t seem like a woman of faith, but she had a lot of interest in religion and mythology for some reason…

…Fav wondered why.

It seems that whenever she read the books, she seems like she's enjoying a really good story, and then she takes out her pen and writes down something in her notebook occasionally, excited at it too.

The Magical Girl with the camera walked over to get a closer look with her camera, and the notebook had a variety of words, *Mastema, Lucifer, Cocytus* in it.

All names from some of those books and scriptures.

Wonder what *that*'s all about.

There was still no foreseeable weakness to be found… or was there?

The next video was called *'Poor Mao Pam*'. Again, there seems to be a pattern with Mao Pam and technology.

This one showed her hard at work on her laptop, and the camera is shown behind her shoulder.

She was a bit frustrated here, tinkering with her laptop. It seemed to have frozen, so she must want to reset it.

The date is set later than the time she had to fix her laptop last time, so this must be… what, the third time or more?

As she tinkered with her laptop, there was some sounds and noises. Pam took a look at her screen to see what was going on, and…

…The screen went blue.

Pam clicked on the mouse. Nothing was working.

After a while, Pam groaned and hit her head on her desk in defeat.

So Mao Pam really wasn't good with technology, huh?

The next video was called '*Meetings with Mao Pam*'.

It's another quality recorded video of a meeting room in the Land of Magic. The head of the meeting was trying to explain… something.

Fav couldn't really understand what she was saying, but it must've been some issue or another.

Fav focused on Pam, and saw that Pam was slowly nodding off, only to wake up again suddenly.

It seems like even *she* doesn't like the droning long days of meetings, where almost nothing gets done, and everything is boring.

Fav can sympathize with that.

Pam was trying hard not to fall asleep. Magical Girls don't need to sleep, but that doesn't mean they can't be bored to sleep. That part seems to be normal no matter what you are.

Fav fast-forwarded, since he was also starting to get bored of the video

At the end of the meeting, the head asked a question, and Pam's eyes shot wide open. She looked confused, she probably had no idea what just happened.

Everyone raised their hands in agreement, and Pam just followed along, not really sure of what was going on.

Interesting…

The next video is titled '*Mao Pam and Tech, Part 3*'.

Here, Mao Pam is dressed very fancily, in a black dress, sunglasses, and nice fancy tipped hat.

She's going to the R&D facility. Fav knows this facility, it's where he was born all those years ago.

Mao Pam handed over a written letter to one of the Magical Girls working there, and she looked at it with some confusion.

"You sure you want this?" she asked.

"Yes, please," said Pam.

The video then cut and moved to Pam somewhere else. She was opening a large cardboard box.

Oh, this must be her trying to replace her laptop. Guess she didn't want to be too embarrassed about breaking it again, so she decided to replace it instead of fixing it.

But what she opened was…

…A microwave.

Fav knew it was a microwave, Pam seemed to be confused. She opened the box, took out the metal parts and stared at it for about 2 to 3 whole minutes, blinking dumbfounded.

She read the instructions, and just looked at the parts, not knowing what to do.

She may have written the wrong model, and got a microwave instead of a new laptop instead.

Fav had seen enough. He had downloaded all the necessary files and videos, and reappeared in another phone.

A secluded forest retreat, the home of his favorite, Clamberry.

“These are all the things you need to know about Mao Pam, Pon!”

“And there’s something I can use here?”

“Of course, Pon!”

“I’ll go have a look, then”

“So you have a plan, Pon?”

“We’ll see…”

Three days later, Fav played a video,

‘*Up-and-Comer challenges Mao Pam in graduation match*’.

He played the video.

Mao Pam and Clamberry were starting at a distance of five meters apart. Both Magical Girls bowed.

Clamberry wasted no time, rushing in to Mao Pam.

Pam blocked her first kick with her wings, her punch as well. Clamberry tried to blow through Pam's wings with her soundwaves, but it won't budge.

Instead, the wings managed to slam Clamberry away from Pam.

Clamberry relied on speed and skill, trying her best to fight one-on-one with Pam, but Pam was too fast, dodging every attack completely, blocking every soundwave that Clamberry made.

Pam flew away, Clamberry used her sound to amplify Pam's location.

But it didn't matter. Pam was too fast.

Suddenly, Pam reappeared behind Clamberry, and launched a kick to her back that sent her flying towards a tree.

Clamberry slammed through the tree, and tumbled through the grass, leaving a trail of blood where she landed.

Blood had shown on Clamberry's face. She wiped it with her arm, and Clamberry smiled,

"Hahaha! Good fight. You're still going to continue?" asked Pam.

"Of course…" replied Clamberry.

She launched a large soundwave with both palms, but Pam blocked it with a wall made of her wings.

When she opened her wings, Clamberry was gone.

A distraction.

Pam used her instincts, moving away from her spot. Sure enough, Clamberry had instantly landed and created a small crater-shaped hole where Pam was.

In response, Pam's wings turned to tentacles, each holding Clamberry's limbs. The tentacles moved in to crush Clamberry's limbs, as Clamberry screamed in pain.

Pam went in, pummeling Clamberry in the torso. Each punch making Clamberry cough up blood.

Each punch to the torso was heard with a crack, each punch was made to be the last, it took all of Clamberry's strength as her eyes bulged and she gritted her teeth to withstand the pain.

Pam then punched Clamberry in the face multiple times, and Clamberry became even more and more bruised.

The punches made Clamberry lose her focus, her eyes weren't able to focus on one thing anymore, it's clear that Clamberry was fighting to stay conscious.

Finally, she released the tentacles, grabbed Clamberry by the neck, and slammed Clamberry against a tree.

Clamberry was hurt badly. Her body was weakened, damaged heavily by Pam's relentless punishment.

Each blow was like hard concrete. Clamberry's body was as broken as a stick being pummeled by a hammer.

Still, she tried… She tried to stand…

There were some comments on the video at this time, passing to the left of the screen,

'*Clamberry's still going huh?'*

'She's determined, I'll give her that'

Clamberry struggled to get up. Fav could tell that her bones were probably shattered as she groaned in pain, trying her best to even stand up.

Pam allowed it, she liked spirit in her students.

Clamberry's breathing is heavy, and she coughed up blood as she breathed in and out.

She looked at Pam, and charged at her. Pam prepared her defenses, but…

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

An alarm on Pam's Magical Phone.

Pam motioned a 'stop' palm, and Clamberry stopped her advance, stopping to catch a breath, and agreeing to a standstill.

Pam checked her Magical Phone.

But there was no alarm…

…Wait, what?

Clamberry instantly resumed her charge, getting past the range of Pam's wings. The beeping was a trick played by Clamberry's powers.

Since Pam didn't understand much of technology, she had to check to make sure. She wouldn't know if she set an alarm or not.

Clamberry aimed for a fist at Pam's face, but Pam was faster.

She caught Clamberry's fist with her palms, catching Clamberry's punch, grasping her fist tightly, and twisted Clamberry's arm.

"GRAAAH!" screamed out Clamberry in pain, as she fell on one knee, her right arm broken from the twist.

Pam smiled, "Good try, Clamberry," she said.

Clamberry smiled.

Suddenly.

A shockwave.

Pam was blown back. Clamberry had made contact with Pam's hand, which means she made contact with Pam's body.

Sound travels not just through air, but also through surface vibrations too. When travelling through the body, its effects are arguably far worse.

Clamberry didn't need her attack to hit, she just needed to make contact with Pam.

Pam was blown away, but she flipped backwards and landed pretty safely… However…

When Pam tried to move her hand, she groaned in pain. A bone was jutting out of her right arm.

She widened her eyes, and then she looked at Clamberry, and she smiled.

Clamberry was on her knees, body in pain, completely torn apart, unable to stand anymore. She fell to the ground, each breath feeling more painful than the last.

Pam chuckled to herself. She carefully supported her arm on a tree, and forcefully set the bone inside herself, a loud crack and small groaning of pain from Pam, but nothing too big.

Pam approached Clamberry, and helped her up, supporting her as she stood up.

Clamberry's right arm was broken, and she was visibly in pain when Pam touched her right arm, so Pam grabbed her shoulders instead.

"Congratulations, Clamberry," said Pam with a big smile.

"*Huff… Cough…* Ngh… Thank you… *Huff*…" said Clamberry, eyes swollen, hardly able to stand herself.

"You used your Magic well and creatively, the sign of a true adaptable warrior. I hereby graduate you from my school,"

Clamberry smiled and nodded, then she coughed and puked some blood, as her breathing became course.

"Haha, don't go out on me yet, my Forest Musician. I'm proud of you. You're a newcomer, but you've come so far. I've always known that you had potential," said Pam.

"Th… Thank you… Ngh…"

"Don't force yourself. This should be a joyous occasion. If you ever want a proper rematch, however. I'll be happy to oblige, though of course, in a real fight, you would've been dead already, so I hope you understand that there needs to be some strategy rather than just to hit me once," said Pam.

Clamberry laughed, but each laugh made her hurt even more.

The rest of the Magical Girls watching around them rushed towards Clamberry, cheering that one of their fellow classmates had graduated.

They were happy for her.

"Congratulations!"

"Wow, you're gonna do great in the Land of Magic"

"It's always the quiet ones, huh?"

"Good job… Forest Musician"

Everyone supported Clamberry, cheered for her. Mao Pam was proud for her.

"Let it be known that the Forest Musician, Clamberry, has passed my school, and thus has earned my respect!" said Mao Pam.

Clamberry had long gone unconscious, unable to support her own weight and pain at that skirmish.

“Let’s give her a rest. She deserves it,” said Pam.

“What are you gonna do now, Pon?” asked Fav, stopping the video.

“I’ve graduated,” said Clamberry.

“Now we can be administrators, Pon!”

“Yes… now we can.”

“Something wrong, Pon?”

“…I’m going to miss them,” said Clamberry.

“They were your type, Pon.”

“They were fun… It was very fun, actually,” said Clamberry, seemingly sad that she had to go.

She had recovered in this place for three days, since that’s how badly she was beaten up when trying to challenge Mao Pam.

“I hope you give me some fun too, Fav,” said Clamberry.

“But of course, Pon! After all, that’s my goal as well, Pon!”